

are not mercenary, but living so near the bone becomes depressing—one's mind gets cramped and fearful.

Yours truly,

Co-op. NURSE.

P.S.—Since private nursing for four years I have saved £100, so I am not extravagant.

THE POWERS OF A DISTRICT NURSE.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—Your correspondent, "A District Nurse," regrets that she is not responsible for giving out all food, stimulants, and appliances to her patients, but my experience does not lead me to agree with her, at least as far as the two former are concerned. A certain stock of appliances I always keep by me, but, as regards food and stimulants, I think the rule laid down by the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, that their nurses should not act as almoners, is a wise one. To take one aspect of the question only, if district nurses do undertake to distribute food and stimulants they assume responsibility in regard to it, they must see that needy patients are adequately supplied with well-cooked, hot, and nourishing food regularly. I do not think that a district nurse, at all events one who is working single handed, has time or conveniences to undertake this with her other work, leaving out the "almoner" side of the question altogether. It is much better in the interests of the patients for her to secure help from benevolent persons or societies for the necessitous amongst them, and she is wise to do so.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

ANOTHER DISTRICT NURSE.

THE NURSING OF "BORDERLAND" CASES.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—One of the branches of nursing of which a private nurse most feels her lack of knowledge is in the care of mental cases, not of the insane, perhaps, for she does not undertake such cases, but she does, in the course of her work, have charge of many which may be described as "borderland cases." I have had many such, both amongst medical and surgical patients, and have felt how much an insight into the nursing of such patients during my hospital training would have helped me.

It seems to me, too, that for the sake of the patients it would be of great value if our larger general hospitals allotted wards for their treatment and, one hopes in many instances, cure. These patients are difficult to deal with, but if they consult a medical practitioner, and can afford to have a private nurse, a great deal can be done for them. Amongst the poorer classes they are apt to go on from bad to worse, until, with the development of the disease, their condition is sufficiently acute to permit their being certified as insane and removed to any asylum. But surely, from all points of view, it is to be regretted that they cannot get hospital treatment before arriving at this stage. I have heard that at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, such cases are received, but I know of no other. From my own experience I should like to impress upon nurses the desirability of getting an insight into the

care of mental cases before taking up private work. The facilities offered by Bethlem Royal Hospital, mentioned in the Journal last week, seem just what are needed, and I should think that many nurses would be glad to avail themselves of them. I know I should if I could spare the time.

Yours faithfully,

PRIVATE NURSE.

THE CRUEL STEEL TRAP.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

MADAM,—So much feeling has been aroused by the cruelties connected with the use of the steel trap, in the capture of rabbits and other animals, that considerable interest attaches to the appearance of a pamphlet by Mr. George Greenwood, M.P., entitled "The Law of the Steel Trap." Mr. Greenwood draws attention to the fact, too commonly overlooked, that the law is habitually disregarded in the reckless manner in which steel traps are set by many persons who have no right to do so; and he further gives information as to how rabbits may be snared in a more humane yet equally efficient method. The pamphlet is published by the Humanitarian League, 53, Chancery Lane, W.C.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Comments and Replies.

District Nurse.—We should advise you to get "Mothers in Council," or "Talks in Mothers' Meetings," by Ellen M. McDougall, price 2s. 6d. One chapter gives an account of "Schools for Mothers," such as the one carried on in St. Pancras Parish, London.

Private Nurse.—You would find a "Thermos" Flask a most useful acquisition if you have a long journey, and are uncertain when you can get hot things. You can then give your invalid hot drinks when required at any time.

Notices.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

An application form for those who wish to become members of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses will be found on page iii. of cover. It will soon be too late to help on the important work of this Society. No habitual reader of this journal can, we feel sure, be content to stand aside and let others found the future Profession of Nursing. Now is the time to help.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Editor will at all times be pleased to consider articles of a suitable nature for insertion in this Journal—those on practical nursing are specially invited.

Such communications must be duly authenticated with name and address, and should be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.

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